

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for concentrating ~~An athermal process for the concentration~~ Garcinia ~~an extract of one or more species of~~ Garcinia ~~extract,~~ which comprises the steps of:

a) ~~collecting and cutting~~ extracting cut dried rinds of a fruit selected from Garcinia pedunculata and G. cowa, with de-ionized water at a volume ratio of 1:4 for a period of 20-30 minutes at 115° C-130°C to obtain an extract,

b) ~~extracting the rinds with de-ionized water at a volume ratio of 1:4 for a period of 20-30 minutes min at 115° C-130°C to obtain an extract,~~

b) ~~c~~) filtering the extract to obtain a particle free extract, and

c) ~~d~~) subjecting the particle free extract to osmotic membrane distillation in a co-current mode in the presence of an osmotic agent to obtain a concentrated ~~until the extract wherein the extract has been~~ is reduced to 1/5th of its original volume.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining hydrocitric acid from the concentrated extract of step c) ~~(d)~~.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step c) a hydrophobic membrane is placed between two steel frames SS316 is used ~~of the module with suitable spaces~~.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract is circulated at a flow rate of 100-150 ml/min minute on one side of the membrane using a multi-stage peristaltic pump.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4 wherein a hydrophobic membrane osmotic agent (OA) is placed on the other side of the membrane using a multi-stage peristaltic pump.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the osmotic agent is saturated calcium chloride.

7. (Currently amended) The A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the osmotic membrane distillation is carried out at ambient temperature of  $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  and pressure of 1 atm.

8. (Currently amended) The A-process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the osmotic membrane distillation is carried on for about 4-6 hrs until ~~till~~ the extract is ~~was~~ concentrated ~~in the feed tank~~.

9. (Currently amended) The A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the free hydrocitric acid content in the ~~concentrate~~ concentrated extract is in the range 33-35 % estimated by HPLC method.

10. (Currently amended) The A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrocitric acid content in the concentrated extract is ~~was~~ increased from 4-6 fold as compared to the extract of step a) and hydrocitric acid-HCA is present in the native form (not as derivative) with out formation of lactone, ~~increasing it commercial and nutritive values~~.

11. (Currently amended) ~~An athermal~~ A process for the concentration of *Garcinia* extract comprising the steps of:

a) ~~collecting the dried fruit rinds may be effected from the species of *Garcinia*~~

b) a) cutting dried the rinds of *G. pedunculata*, ~~/G.cowa~~ or a mixture thereof manually to a size of 3x9mm to 6x14mm;

c) b) extracting the rinds using ~~may be effected with~~ de-ionized water at a volume ratio of 1:4 for a period of 15-35 min at  $110-130^\circ\text{C}$  ~~[ - ]~~ to obtain an extract;

d) c) ~~filtering the above extract may be effected by~~ using a filter cloth;

e) d) ~~concentrating the HCA hydroxycitric acid~~ by osmotic membrane distillation (OMD) in a co-current flat membrane module wherein a hydrophobic membrane situated between two steel frames SS316 of the module with suitable spaces is used;

- ~~f) placing a hydrophobic membrane between two steel frames  
SS316 of the module with suitable spaces~~
- ~~g) e) circulating the extract at a flow rate of 100-150 ml/min  
minute on the one side of the membrane using a multi-stage  
peristaltic pump;~~
- ~~h) f) using a hydrophobic membrane osmotic agent (OA) on  
the other side of the membrane using a multi-stage peristaltic  
pump;~~
- ~~i) g) carrying out OMD for about 4-6 hours until hrs till the  
extract is was concentrated in the feed tank.~~